

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please AMEND claims 1-5 and 7, as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) An image forming apparatus comprising:
a both-side image forming means for forming ~~images~~ images on both sides of a recording material;
a rotatable belt for heating a toner image on a recording material through a belt;
a ~~supporting~~ rotatable supporting member, having an elastic layer, for supporting said belt; and
a ~~pressing~~ rotatable pressing member, pressed toward said supporting member with said belt interposed therebetween, for forming the nip for nipping and feeding the recording material;
wherein said pressing member has a surface hardness which is larger than a surface hardness of said ~~supporting~~ rotatable supporting member, and
wherein a surface hardness of said ~~supporting~~ rotatable supporting member through said belt is different from a surface hardness of said ~~rotatable~~ pressing ~~rotatab~~ member by +4 degrees to -8 degrees.
2. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said ~~pressing~~ rotatable pressing member has an elastic layer.

3. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to Claim 2, wherein the elastic layer of said ~~supporting~~ rotatable supporting member has a thickness larger than a thickness of ~~an~~ the elastic layer of said rotatable pressing ~~rotatable~~ member.

4. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said belt per se has a surface hardness which is larger than a surface hardness of said ~~pressing~~ rotatable pressing member.

5. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said ~~supporting~~ rotatable supporting member is disposed at a downstreammost position with respect to a feeding direction of the recording material by the nip.

6. (Original) An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said belt has a base layer of metal.

7. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to Claim 1, further comprising a separation member which is out of contact from said belt or said ~~pressing~~ rotatable pressing member.